

Fact Sheet

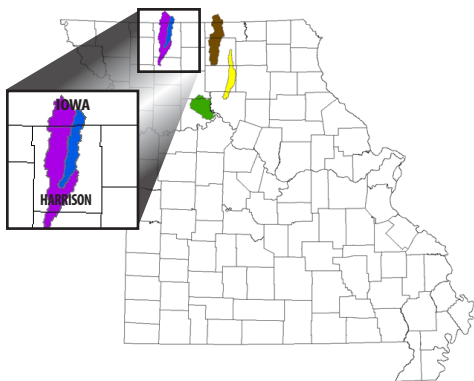
March 2009

West Fork Big Creek Watershed Project

Introduction

This watershed project would continue completion of the proposed project by constructing 10 small flood water retarding structures under two federal contracts at an estimated total cost of \$1 million.

Funded through the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, this project is part of the Obama Administration's plans to modernize the nation's infrastructure, jumpstart the economy, and create jobs. NRCS is using Recovery Act dollars to update aging flood control structures, protect and maintain water supplies, improve water quality, reduce soil erosion, enhance fish and wildlife habitat, and restore wetlands. NRCS acquires easements and restores floodplains to safeguard lives and property in areas along streams and rivers that have experienced flooding.



West Fork Big Creek Watershed, shown here in purple, is located in Harrison and Daviess Counties of Missouri, extending into Iowa.

Project Description

- **Location:** Harrison and Daviess Counties in Missouri, extending into Iowa
- **Size:** 187,290 acres
- **Start Date:** September 2009
- **Estimated Completion Date:** September 2010

The West Fork Big Creek Watershed Project plan consists of accelerated land treatment for crop land erosion control, construction of a series of single purpose floodwater retarding, and one large multi-purpose reservoir for municipal, industrial, and rural water supply, recreation and flood prevention. To date 138 of 253 single purpose flood water retarding structures and the large multi-purpose structure have been completed or are under construction in Missouri.

Partners

- East Fork Big Creek Watershed District
- Decatur County Soil and Water Conservation District (Iowa)
- Decatur County Board of Supervisors (Iowa)
- Harrison County Soil and Water Conservation District
- Harrison County Court

Benefits

This project will have a major environment effect on the watershed problems of soil erosion and floodwater damage. Additionally, this project will also provide a sufficient water supply for Harrison County.

The entire watershed plan is estimated to:

- reduce floodwater damage to 23,316 acres
- provide consistent, sustainable water supply to Harrison County
- provide grade stabilization to degrading stream channels
- reduce overbank deposition of sediment on wetlands and prime farmland in the floodplain
- improve water quality by reductions in turbidity and agricultural chemicals
- provide net beneficial effects on quality and quantity of wildlife habitat

Economic Opportunities

An estimated 4,425 residents will directly or indirectly benefit in the watershed. An estimated \$1.3 million in average annual benefits has been realized through FY 2008 from the installation of the 139 structures in Missouri.